

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0057

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, MZ, US

SUBJECT: ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES IN MOZAMBIQUE

REF: STATE 005980

1. FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ASKED REFTEL:

A. WHAT TYPE OF AID IS GPRM PROVIDING TO ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES?

THE GPRM HAS PROVIDED A BROAD RANGE OF LOGISTICAL AND MANPOWER SUPPORT TO ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES LIVING IN MOZAMBIQUE. IT HAS PROVIDED THE LAND ON WHICH THE UNHCR-SUPPORTED REFUGEE CAMPS HAVE BEEN BUILT AND IT HAS PROVIDED SEVERAL BULLDOZERS AND TRACTORS TO CLEAR THE LAND AND PREPARE THE FIELDS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. CIVIL SERVANTS FROM THE MINISTRIES OF PUBLIC WORKS AND AGRICULTURE HAVE WORKED AND ARE WORKING ALONGSIDE THE REFUGEES TO ACCOMPLISH THESE TASKS. IN ADDITION, DOCTORS FROM MOZAMBIQUE'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WHICH IS CRITICALLY UNDERSTAFFED, HAVE PROVIDED FREE MEDICAL SERVICES TO ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES AND MAKE PERIODIC VISITS TO THE THREE UNHCR-SUPPORTED REFUGEE CAMPS. GPRM ALSO PAYS SALARIES OF MOZAMBIKAN OFFICIALS WHO ARE ADMINISTERING ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE CAMPS. BECAUSE OF ITS OWN LIMITED RESOURCES, MOZAMBIQUE HAS NOT CONTRIBUTED A GREAT DEAL OF MONETARY ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES. HOWEVER, IT HAS PAID FOR THOUSANDS OF TONS OF FOOD FOR REFUGEE CAMPS. IN SOME CASES, MOZAMBIQUE HAS RECOVERED ITS EXPENSES FROM DIRECT CON-

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TRIBUTIONS FROM SIDA (SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY) AND OTHER SOURCES. NEVERTHELESS, UNHCR OFFICIALS HERE SAY THAT BECAUSE OF SLOPPY BOOKKEEPING PROCEDURES AND SLOW RESPONSES FROM INTERNATIONAL DONORS, MOZAMBIQUE HAS BEEN GENERALLY "OUT OF POCKET" ON FOOD PURCHASES. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH ANY CURRENT FIGURES, UNHCR REPORTED THAT IN CY 1976, MOZAMBIQUE PROVIDED THE EQUIVALENT OF OVER \$950,000 IN

FOOD FOR ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES.

B. DOES GPRM INTEND TO RESETTLE ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES? SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE IN JUNE 1975, MOZAMBIQUE HAS ESTABLISHED THREE LARGE ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE CAMPS IN MOZAMBIQUE: DOROI, MAVUDZI AND TRONGA. SCHOOLS, RUDIMENTARY HEALTH FACILITIES, HOUSING AND LARGE AGRICULTURAL PLOTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN EACH OF THEM. A FORTH UNHCR-SUPPORTED CAMP IS BELIEVED TO BE ON THE DRAWING BOARD. THE GPRM IS WORKING HARD TO MAKE ACH OF THESE CAMPS AS SELF-SUFFICIENT AS POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY IN FOOD PRODUCTION. BECAUSE THE MOZAMBICANS VIEW THE ZIMBABWEAM PROBLEM AS SHORT-TERM SITUATION. THEY DO NOT HAVE ANY PLANS TO RESETTLE ZIMBABWEANS INTO SMALLER UNITS OR TO INTEGRATE THEM INTO THE FABRIC OF MOZAMBICAN LIFE.

2. IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE'S APPEARANCE ON THE HILL, DEPARTMENT MAY FIND FOLLOW-
INF FORMATION USEFUL. LOCAL UNHCR OFFICIALS INFORMED DCM ON JANUARY 11 THAT MOZAMBIQUE HAS ORDERED ZNAU TO DISBAND ITS "FAMILY CAMPS" AND TO INTEGRATE INHABITANTS INTO EXISTING UNCHR CAMMPS. AS RESULT, OFFICAL ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE POPULATION IN UNCHR SUPPORTED CAMPS HAS SWOLLEN TO 42,500 PEOPLE. THERE ARE NOW 23,500 REFUGEES IN DOROI, 5,000 IN MAVUDZI AND 14,000 IN TRONGA, THIS IS AN INCREASE OF 7,500 PEOPLE SINCE OCTOBER 1977. (MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT ACTION WAS TAKEN TO PREVENT REPETITION OF MASSIVE KILLINGS
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OF CIVILIANS WHICH OCCURRED FOLLOWING RHODESIAN RAIDS ON CHIMOIO ON NOVEMBER 23 AND 24). UNCHR OFFICIALS WERE QUICK TO ADD THAT (AS FAR AS THEY KFEW) ONLY THE ZANU "FAMILY CAMP" AT CHIMOIO HAD BEEN DISBANDED AND THAT REFUGEE FIGURE COULD CLIMB BY ANOTHER 8,000 IF AND WHEN OTHER ZANU "FAMILY CAMP" IN TETE IS FORMALLY DISBANDED. UNCHR OFFICIALS SAID THAT UNHCR-GENEVA HAD CONTRIBUTED US\$118.000 IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO HELP ALLEVIATE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY NOVEMBER RHODESIAN RAIDS INTO MOZAMBIQUE THEY SPECULATED (CONFIDENTIALLY) THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH.
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